

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176658

EXDIS, FOR DEPUTY SECY CHRISTOPHER ONLY FM BRIZILL

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 5538 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA 27 JULY.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5538

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

1. DURING A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN
JULY 26, HE TOLD ME THAT BEGIN WAS UNDER STRONG
PRESSURE FROM GENERAL SHARON (WHO CHAIRS THE CABINET
COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS) AND FROM MANY OTHER ELEMENTS
IN THE LIKUD TO APPROVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE 12 NEW
SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK WHOSE SITES HAVE BEEN
SELECTED AND FOR WHICH THERE ARE SETTLEMENT GROUPS
ORGANIZED AND PRACTICALLY READY, ALL OF THEM SPONSORED
BY THE GUSH EMUNIM (TODAY'S MAARIV DESCRIBES IN SOME
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DETAIL THIS PROPOSED SETTLEMENT PROGRAM). DAYAN SAID
THAT HE IS WELL AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO
A MORATORIUM ON ALL NEW SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY DURING THIS
PERIOD LEADING UP TO GENEVA, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT
BEGIN'S EVENTUAL DECISION WOULD BE. HE POINTED OUT
THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE JOINED TODAY IN THE KNESSET
DEBATE ON BEGIN'S TRIP, SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST

TO BEGIN HAS RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY HERE. HE WAS
OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY TROUBLED AND ALSO PESSIMISTIC.

2. DAYAN STRESSED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 26 THAT
THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS HAD RECOGNIZED
KADDUM, OFRA, AND MA'ALE ADUMIN AS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED
FULL-FLEDGED SETTLEMENTS WAS MERELY COMPLETION OF
A PROCESS BEGUN UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND SHOULD
NOT BE VIEWED AS A RESPONSE TO OUR MORATORIUM PROPOSAL
(TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST QUOTES SHARON AS SAYING THAT
THE DECISION WAS INFLUENCED BY THE NEED TO PROVIDE
SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS FOR THE SETTLEMENTS).

3. DAYAN ALSO SAID THAT THE INAUGURATION TODAY OF TWO
SETTLEMENTS NEAR YAMIT IN THE RAFFA AREA OF SINAI WAS
OBVIOUSLY VERY UNFORTUNATE TIMING BUT ONCE AGAIN WAS
MERELY THE COMPLETION OF A PROCESS BEGUN OVER A
YEAR AGO WHEN THESE SETTLEMENTS WERE INITIATED. HE
SAID THAT HE HAD DECLINED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THOSE
INAUGURATIONS DESPITE HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE
LEADER OF THE SETTLEMENT GROUP.

4. THERE IS SOME PRESS SPECULATION TODAY THAT YESTER-
DAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING KADDUM AND THE OTHER TWO
EXISTING SETTLEMENTS WHICH ARE NOW MADE LEGAL WAS
DESIGNED TO PLACATE THE GUSH EMUNIM "BECAUSE NO NEW
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SETTLEMENTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE."
THIS MAY WELL PROVE TO BE WISHFUL THINKING, BUT IS AT
LEAST ONE POSSIBILITY.

5. THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT IS OBVIOUSLY CLOSE TO A PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOME KIND ABOUT ITS FUTURE SETTLEMENTS
POLICY, AND IT MAY COME TODAY IN THE MAJOR KNESSET
DEBATE ON THE OUTCOME OF BEGIN'S TRIP. LEWIS
UNQUOTE VANCE

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